

Vermont Watcher

VOL. 56, NO. 19.

MONTPELIER, MARCH 28, 1862.

WHOLE NO. 2893.

Thirty-Seventh Congress—1st Session.

Washington, Wednesday, March 27, 1862.

SENATE.

Mr. Rice offered a joint resolution authorizing the

Secretary of the Navy to purchase of the State of New York

the gunboat "Albatross," and to pay for the same

the sum of \$100,000, and to pay for the same

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JUSTICE TO ALL.

Now that the warfare against Gen. McClellan

has subsided, if not wholly ceased, it is

fitting that we review the ground in brief,

and endeavor to render to all equal and exact

justice. It is not claimed that any one man

shall have all the glory of the victories that

have thus far crowned the Union arms, nei-

ther is it expected that those who were

just ready to be won shall redound to the

honor of any one General to the exclusion of

all the others. But in making up the ver-

dict, every person who in any way con-

tributed to the grand result, should share in

the glory of the result, just so far as he has

contributed to make it successful. Equal

and exact justice to all should be the motto

of the people, and we should be willing to

render unto Caesar the things which are

Caesar's.

The New York Tribune and its immediate

friends, we think, were the first to attempt to

destroy the public confidence in Gen. McClellan's

military abilities, and to seek to rob him

of his share in the honor which should be

given to our military leaders for the success

which have recently crowned the campaign.

In the opinion of the Tribune he was trim-

ming his course more with view to his own

future emolument and honor than for the im-

mediate suppression of the rebellion; he

wished to be the next President, and hence

his tardiness to move against the rebel army.

Such a charge was no more unjust than it

was shallow, for had the thought of the Presi-

dency ever entered the mind of Gen. McClellan,

he must have been wanting in common

sensibility not to have known that in no

way could he have rendered himself so popu-

lar with the people as by quick, sharp and

effective blows at the rebellion. The people

were anxious for its speedy suppression, and

were looking with anxious hearts, and wait-

ing with bated breath, to see the progress of

that man who should strike the hardest blow

against the enemies of the country, be he

Gen. McClellan, Gen. Halleck, or any other

General. His military strategy, also, was de-

termined; and as one victory after another

was won, the attempt was made to prove that

it was in spite of the remonstrances of Gen.

McClellan, and that it was dictated by some

other man—either the President, the Secre-

tary of War, or the commanding General of

the particular department in which it trans-

pired. No credit at all would be allowed to

the Commanding General of the army for any

part which he might have taken in the laying

of the plans which resulted in success.

The Tribune having started this warfare, it

was caught up and echoed through the land

by a host of willing voices, until the people

were beginning to lose confidence in the

Commanding General, and to look for

retaining in the position a man whose

ability was boldly called in question. Justice

required that the facts should be known, and

if any of the honor due to an able officer was

being snatched from him through malice or

the plottings of designing men, their intrigue

should be exposed and credit given where

credit belonged. The contest waxed sharp

and warm, until it resulted in an open de-

mand for a removal. Then it was that light

began to break in, and the people began to

see the injustice of unnecessary haste; and

to-day the confidence of the country in Gen.

McClellan is being restored, and we trust that

in the end he will reap his full share of honor

—no more and no less.

We have stood by General McClellan

and attempted to defend him against the

attacks which have been made upon him,

just as we did by General Fremont when he

was assailed by a different class of opponents,

because we have considered them without

foundation, and dictated more through ignor-

ance of his true position than from actual

knowledge of the plans that were being laid

for his success; not that we pretended to

know anything of these plans, but that the

hand of somebody was in the work who was

bringing about great and glorious results, and

so long as success crowned the Union arms

so long should the confidence of the people be

given to every man who in any way contrib-

uted to that success. We were not willing

that malice and envy should rob their shafts

at Gen. McClellan, or any other General, un-

til the public mind was so embittered that

they would not, though they could, award

equal and exact justice to all. We have

never claimed that Gen. McClellan should be

made the one hero of the war to the exclu-

sion of all others, but that his past position

as Commanding General of the army, and the

confidence reposed in him by the President,

who is the Commander-in-Chief, entitled him

to his share of whatever of honor was to re-

sult from the successful issue of the cam-

paign. In the same proportion, also, would

we hold him responsible for a different re-

sult.

The great mistake of the military public,

in their estimate of the plan of the campaign

and its strategic points, is in supposing that

they can arrange themselves, or that a bold

dash can be made at any one point without

affecting for good or ill any other point; and

that in conducting a campaign one depart-

ment is in no way connected with all the

others, but can be just as conducive of final

results if considered entirely independent of

the others. But system and organization are,

perhaps in military matters more than all

others, the very soul and substance of success.

Each squad of soldiers must have its non-

commissioned officers, a company their com-

missioned officers and captains, a regiment

its staff, the brigade its general, and so on

until the whole army must be divided into

corps of special denominations, and each of

these must have their commanders, until the

whole has its Commander-in-Chief, from whom

all orders in conformity with the general plan

of the campaign, and for its systematic and

harmonious working, can and ought to eman-

ate. A premature or unadvised attack upon

the enemy, even though a brilliant success

in itself considered, might so far defeat the

general plan of the campaign as to be more

disastrous than a defeat.

To the President, as Commander-in-Chief

of the army, belongs the duty of directing the

movements of his subordinate officers in the

various departments. The President, not be-

ing a military man, relied upon the councils

of the veteran Gen. Scott, until his resigna-

tion left the President no alternative but to

call to his aid some one of the many generals

who were fighting the battles of the country

in the field. Gen. McClellan was the one

selected, and coming to his new position, at

the same time the commander of the Army

of the Potomac and the Commanding General

of the whole army, flushed with a series of

brilliant victories in Western Virginia, the

whole of the loyal portion of the country was

joyful in his praises, and the prudence of

the President in his selection was commended

on all sides. Gen. McClellan's appointment

upon the work assigned him, prepared his

plans and organized or directed the organizing

of the army for the various departments, pre-

paratory to a concerted action against the

whole line of rebel defenses. As command-

ing General of the army it was his particular

province to see that the movements in each

department were not such as to distract or

defeat those of another. The whole field of

operations was to him a military chess board

in which each man bore a relative position to

the others, and the strategic combinations

must be arranged in view of a final check-

mate of the enemy. How far these combina-

tions have been successful, let the glorious

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